

LOVE GOD, LOVE OTHERS, & SERVE THE WORLD IN WAYNE & BEYOND

JULY 2023

LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

Dear church family,

On Vision Sunday, June 11, I shared several actions that I believe will help strengthen our church as we continue to rebuild our community and engagement after the pandemic. Many are calling this time the COVID hangover. During the pandemic, our levels of serving and volunteering decreased significantly, and we have struggled to return to full strength. To be a church that is healthy and powerful for Jesus and His Kingdom, we need to unleash the power in our pews.

As we prepare for our ministries to ramp up this fall, will you please pray about 1) continuing to serve somewhere, 2) jumping back into service, or 3) starting to serve for the first time?

For many people, clustering commitments can be a great way to leverage your time for the kingdom. Would you prayerfully considering joining us to **DO 2** this fall?

Here's what we mean:

Commitment #1 – Always commit to being at one of our two worship services. This is the most important corporate thing we can do as followers of Christ. It is more important to worship than to serve!

Commitment #2 – Commit to participating during the other worship service time.

Here are two options:

- **Serve in one of our ministries:** On Sunday mornings, we have a great opportunity to make an impact on the next generations through our Kids and Student Ministries. There are many ways to help our kids and teens put their roots deep into a relationship with Jesus and His gospel. We would love to get you plugged in to our Kids, Student, or other ministries that serve on Sundays. Please consider joining us in August for our COS Serve Fair to learn more. (More on this below.)
- **Get equipped to serve at one of our equipping classes:** We have several equipping classes that are designed to help you to live out your faith and to serve in more powerful ways. We want to equip you in your walk and service to King Jesus. Stay tuned for more information about these equipping opportunities. We will have classes at both the 9:00 and 10:30 am hours on Sundays to strengthen our church family.

So, let's **DO 2** together! Our goal is for everyone to worship at the 9:00 or 10:30 am service and then serve at either 9:00 or 10:30 am (the time when you aren't at worship). "Worship one; serve one!"

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LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

We want to be healthier individuals and a healthier church body. And we are better, smarter, and stronger when we work together towards kingdom initiatives that bring Jesus glory.

COS Serve Fair – On Sunday, August 20, after our 9:00 and 10:30 am services, we have an opportunity for you to be exposed to all the different ways to use your gifts and talents to advance the glory of Jesus Christ through serving at COS and also in Wayne & beyond. Our Serve Fair takes place in our Welcome Center in building A (i.e., the large open area by the coffee) and acts as an “onramp” for you to learn about where you can invest in the kingdom. Please plan to join us so you are ready to **DO 2** this fall.

Let’s kick the COVID hangover to the curb and launch into this next season of ministry together!

Until all have heard,

Pastor Kevin

NOTE TO PARENTS

On July 23 and 30, our sermons will cover Judges 17-21, which are rather graphic. We encourage concerned parents to discuss this ahead of time with their kids who remain in the worship service for the sermon.

RECAP OF THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING & VISION SUNDAY

We started June off with a bang this year! On June 4, we had our Annual Business Meeting, where we ratified 11 elders and approved our annual budgets for Ministry/Operations and Global Outreach. The following Sunday, Pastor Kevin shared the vision for our upcoming ministry year, and we spent the afternoon together at our church picnic, celebrating all that God has and is continuing to do in and through our church.

In case you missed it, visit coswayne.org/vision to learn more!

Thank you to all who took part in this special time!



MINISTRY UPDATES

COLLEGE MINISTRY TRANSITION

We wanted to let you know that leadership for College Ministry will be transitioning from Andy Lenko to Stephen Chang for the time being. Andy stepped into leading College Ministry in the spring, in addition to providing leadership for the traditional service. Since that time Andy has been offered a wonderful opportunity to become an electrician and work alongside his dad in the family business. We are excited for Andy to have this opportunity, but, because of this, Andy will no longer have the capacity to support College Ministry. We are thankful that God has used Andy to churn the soil and prepare it for some of you to minister to our college students. Please continue to pray for momentum to build this ministry. As mentioned above, Stephen Chang will give oversight to this area by mid-July. If you would like to explore serving our college students, please reach out to Stephenc@coswayne.org.

Andy has served COS faithfully and with much energetic musical talent since 2018. Andy will continue to give oversight and leadership to the traditional service on a part-time basis (very similar to what Ron Matthews did), he will continue to coordinate the Christmas Concerts and other special events, and he, Melissa, and Josiah will continue worshipping at COS as part of our community. Andy will transition to part-time beginning July 16. Jim Dougherty will continue to oversee all of the worship arts and will be the point of contact and coordination with Andy's work.

COS is uniquely privileged to be surrounded by many universities brimming with students who need to know the love of Christ. Please keep our college students, Pastor Stephen, and our volunteers, in your prayers as this vital ministry continues to take shape at COS.

CARE MINISTRY - HOW CAN WE HELP?

Our COS Care Ministries, supported by volunteers with hearts to love and serve God and others, offer help when you have a need. Here are a few ways we may be able to help you:

- If you are suffering with the loss of a loved one or a marriage relationship, our GriefShare and DivorceCare ministries offer compassion and a safe place to learn and share.
- If you need community but are limited in your ability to connect (e.g. you can't leave your home), our Visitation Ministry shares compassion through visits, cards, and prayer.
- If you need help stewarding the finances God has given you, our Financial Peace (FPU) group offers practical approaches to giving, budgeting, and investing in God-honoring ways.
- If you are working through a challenging time, our Stephens Ministers are trained to walk alongside you, to listen, and to offer empathic care.
- If you need professional counseling, we have a local network of licensed Christian counselors whom you can be referred to.
- If you are struggling with a hurt, hang-up, or habit that is hindering your relationship with God, others, or yourself (that probably includes all of us), our Celebrate Recovery ministry can help you address the pattern of brokenness in your life...from things like loneliness or anger to addictive substances like alcohol or drugs,

You can find more details about our ministries at coswayne.org/care. We want to help!

MINISTRY UPDATES

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS DAY

Billions across the globe do not have enough access to the Good News of Jesus Christ. If only the least reached could come to us, then sharing God's love with the world would be that much easier, right? Unfortunately, it's not always that simple. But we do have a wonderful opportunity to join in with God's plan to reach the nations through our **International Students Day** on Saturday, September 2 (formerly called the Reach International Free Sale).

International Students Day is put on by COS members with the heart to serve and build relationships with international students from around the world. International students from surrounding college campuses are welcomed to COS for a meal, fun activities, and a free yard sale of used and new household items.



How you can get involved:

1. Donate - We will be accepting donations of gently used or new items (more details are available at coswayne.org/gointernational) on Monday, August 28 through Friday, September 1 from 5:00 to 8:00 pm in the Bldg. F Gym. All donations will be made available to international university students who come to the **International Students Day** on **Saturday, September 2**.

2. Volunteer - We need your help as we work to welcome and build relationships with international students before, during, and after **International Students Day**! We have opportunities to serve and show hospitality all week long leading up to, during, and after the event.

3. Assist with Furniture Delivery - Drivers, trucks, and/or trailers are needed to deliver furniture to students' homes.

If you are interested in serving in any of the above or other ways, please email Haig at haigs@coswayne.org or call/text 201-772-4933.

GIVING UPDATE

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As we approach the end of our fiscal year (June 30), we continue to thank God for His faithfulness and provision for our church. Giving in June was higher than our expected budget, which reduced the deficit from \$203k to \$186k for the fiscal year. While these are not the final numbers for the fiscal year, we are praising God for providing for our needs this year.

Next month's newsletter will include a wrap-up for the 2022-2023 fiscal year along with the budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

	<u>Ministry/Ops</u>	<u>Missions</u>	<u>Love-in-Action</u>
GIVING TO DATE	\$2,713,779	\$559,765	\$137,395
BUDGET	\$2,900,000	\$650,000	\$114,142*
OVER/(UNDER)	(\$186,221)	(\$90,235)	\$23,253

LOVE-IN-ACTION is a fund managed by the deacons to provide financial aid for people in our church and community who are suffering. *Aid provided from 7/1/22 - 5/31/23.

EMAIL & TEXT SCAMS

While not directly tied to giving, we have heard about several email and text scams that have impacted our church family recently. Here are a few things to keep in mind:

- Be alert to any email or text that requests that you send money or provide personal information, even if it appears to be from a pastor, friend, or family member. Follow up with your friend or family member directly (i.e. call them on the number that you have saved in your phone) before taking any action.
- Remember that the church and our staff will NEVER request donations or personal information via text message. **We will not send text or email requests asking you to purchase something on behalf of the church.** Please contact the church office if you have any concerns.
- Do not share or reuse your email password. If you haven't changed your email password recently, it may be a good time to do so.
- If you have not set up "two-step verification" or "multi-factor authentication" for your email accounts, we highly recommend doing this. For instructions, please contact your email provider.

Technology advancements have provided great benefits, but not without risk. Please use caution, and please reach out to the church office if you have any questions or concerns.